

DOE News Release – Wildland fire status

Date: July 18, 2007

Time: 11:30pm

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THIRD FOLLOW-UP NEWS RELEASE FOR INL EMERGENCY

Wildland fire status

- **Background information on preparations for INL's 2007 fire season** <http://newsdesk.inel.gov/index.cfm?file=20070604>
- At 11:30 p.m. tonight, INL Emergency Response officials estimated the wildland fire had grown to about 1,000 acres on the southeastern edge of the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory.
- No major INL facilities were threatened by the fire. INL maintains defensible spaces around all important structures and equipment to prevent damage from wildfires.
- Winds were blowing in a northwesterly direction at 13 to 17 mph.
- A U.S. Bureau of Land Management air tanker from the Boise area assisted with firefighting efforts.
- Sixty firefighters along with crews manning heavy equipment (bulldozers, scrapers, water tenders, etc.) from the INL Fire Department, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Shelley and Blackfoot fire departments are battling the fire.
- The fire was burning grass and sagebrush on the sides of the East Butte. INL maintains radio and other equipment atop the butte. Commercial broadcast stations and cell phone providers also have facilities there. A buffer zone exists around the facilities at the top of the butte for fire damage prevention.
- As a reminder, INL officials advised employees to call the INL bus hotline toll-free at 1-877-424-4635 to hear a recorded message on the status of bus operations. For more bus information, call 208-525-0505.
- Traffic to the INL Site will be routed onto Highway 33 or Highway 26 until further notice.

INL Communications continues to gather information about the incident. As soon as further details can be obtained and confirmed, information will be provided to the media.

INL's emergency Joint Information Center at the Engineering Research Office Building, 2525 Fremont Ave., Idaho Falls, has been activated to answer questions. Media should call (208) 526-9206, not your regular INL contacts. Employees and the public can call (208) 526-5042.

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Media Information: (208) 526-9206

Public Information: (208) 526-5042

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